

OCTOBER 1973

THIRTEENTH YEAR — No. 151

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international review of the red cross



INTER ARMA CARITAS

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FOUNDED IN 1863

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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

OCTOBER 1973 - No. 151

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**FRENCH EDITION
OF THE REVIEW**

The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge*. It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

**SUPPLEMENTS
TO THE REVIEW**

SPANISH

Proyectos de Protocolos adicionales a los Convenios de Ginebra - Breve análisis — Reconocimiento de la Sociedad de la Cruz Roja de Fidji — Reconocimiento de la Sociedad de la Cruz Roja de Bangla Desh — Reconocimiento de la Sociedad de la Cruz Roja de Singapur (Circulares núms. 490-491-492) — En beneficio de las víctimas de Chile — Una votación a favor de la Cruz Roja.

GERMAN

Entwurf von Zusatzprotokollen zu den Genfer Abkommen - Zusammengefasste Analyse — Drei neue Nationale Rotkreuzgesellschaften — Für die Opfer in Chile — Tätigkeiten des Henry-Dunant-Instituts.

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**REAFFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT
OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
APPLICABLE IN ARMED CONFLICTS**

**DRAFT ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS TO THE
GENEVA CONVENTIONS**

BRIEF SUMMARY

As announced previously, the ICRC has drafted two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. These drafts are to be the basic working documents of the Diplomatic Conference to be held in Geneva from 20 February to 29 March 1974, and to which all signatories of the Conventions have been invited.

Prior to this Conference, the drafts are to be considered by the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies meeting in Teheran at the next International Red Cross Conference. In view of this, the ICRC has recently sent a short summary of the drafts to those Societies, pending a more detailed analysis which the ICRC will be publishing shortly.

* * *

In the past hundred years, the International Committee of the Red Cross has produced the Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims, a paramount factor of civilization and humanity in the world.

In 1949, the Conventions were minutely revised and improved. Today they constitute the most recent and complete code to protect

human beings in case of armed conflict. Yet they are far from covering the whole gamut of human suffering and need to be supplemented by further agreements. The ICRC was asked to do so by the last two International Conferences of the Red Cross, held in Vienna in 1965 and in Istanbul in 1969.

The ICRC responded by launching into work which, with the very active co-operation of government experts and Red Cross experts who met in 1971 and 1972, led to two draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. The first (draft Protocol I) relates to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts, and the second (draft Protocol II) to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts.

These drafts will constitute the basic documents for the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts convened by the Swiss Federal Council, the Government of the depositary State of the Geneva Conventions, and to be held in Geneva from 20 February to 29 March 1974. They will first be submitted to the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross, in Teheran in November 1973.

The ICRC has also kept in touch with the United Nations and closely followed the proceedings of the General Assembly, which at every session since 1968 has adopted a resolution entitled "Respect for human rights in armed conflicts". This has been a powerful incentive to continue the work undertaken.

Problems relating to atomic, bacteriological and chemical weapons have been the subject of international agreement or discussion among governments. The ICRC therefore does not propose to raise them when submitting its draft Protocols. It will be recalled that, at several International Conferences of the Red Cross, the Red Cross as a whole has clearly expressed its disapproval of weapons of mass destruction, and urged governments to agree on the banning of the use of such weapons.

With regard to weapons known as "conventional" weapons, which inflict unnecessary suffering and indiscriminately strike civilians and combatants alike, the ICRC has, at the request of the second session of the Conference of Government Experts, made a study with a view to describing those weapons and their effects.

The report will be made available to any governments and institutions interested. The ICRC is prepared, should the need be felt, to pursue its research in this direction, which may lead to the convening of a special meeting of government experts to study the problem.

Here follows a brief analysis of the content of the two draft Protocols recently sent to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (of whom there are now one hundred and thirty-five) and to National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

* * *

Draft Protocol I

This comprises six Parts:

- General provisions;
- Wounded, sick and shipwrecked persons;
- Methods and means of combat—Prisoner-of-war status;
- Civilian population;
- Execution of the Conventions and of the Protocol;
- Final provisions.

Part I

The provisions of this Part concern questions relating to the application of the Protocol. They are also designed to ensure a better application of the 1949 Conventions. Article 1 clearly indicates that the Protocol in no way initiates a revision of the Geneva Conventions but, in accordance with the wish expressed by all the experts consulted, aims at supplementing them where, in view of experience with modern weapons, they have proved unequal to the dictates of humanity. Special attention is drawn to the article entitled *Appointment of Protecting Powers and of their substitute* (Art. 5), which is meant to strengthen the international mechanism provided by the Geneva Conventions so as to

guarantee impartial supervision of their application. It should also be noted that many governments and experts expressed the wish that qualified personnel be trained in order to facilitate the application of the Geneva Conventions and this Protocol. That wish has led to Article 6, which provides for the training of such personnel by the Contracting Parties. National Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies will obviously be called upon to play an important part in this context.

Part II

First of all, this Part reaffirms the provisions of the Geneva Conventions regarding the treatment of the wounded, the sick and the shipwrecked. It states that such treatment shall be given to “persons, whether military or civilian, who are in need of medical assistance and care and who refrain from any act of hostility” (Art. 8 (a) and (b)).

This Part further supplements the Geneva Conventions on two essential points:

- first, it extends to all medical personnel, whether military or civilian, the protection hitherto enjoyed by military medical personnel and the medical personnel of civilian hospitals;
- secondly, it extends the protection enjoyed by military medical establishments and units and civilian hospitals to all installations of a medical nature. The latter are described as “medical units”.

It also provides for the protection of the medical mission.

Lastly, an attempt has been made to improve the identification and marking of personnel, units and means of medical transport by having recourse to the most modern techniques. Marking and identification systems are dealt with in the annex to the draft Protocol.

Part III

This Part comprises two Sections. The first deals with *methods and means of combat*, and the second with *prisoner-of-war status*.

Section I lays down rules of behaviour which, during the fighting, combatants must respect with regard to the adverse armed forces. These rules are meant to ensure some fairness in combat and to safeguard civilians who do not take part in the hostilities. This Section states, first of all, that the right of Parties to the conflict to adopt methods and means of combat is not unlimited (Art. 33). It prohibits any recourse to perfidy and gives some examples of acts which must be considered as constituting perfidy "when carried out in order to commit or resume hostilities" (Art. 35). It reaffirms the safeguard of an enemy *hors de combat* in a rule which forbids the killing, wounding or torturing of an enemy who, having laid down his arms or no longer having any means of defence, has surrendered (Art. 38).

Section II, which consists of only one Article (Art. 42), extends the number of persons who, in case of capture, should have the benefit of prisoner-of-war status. By virtue of this provision, members of resistance movements would enjoy prisoner-of-war status so long as those movements fulfilled certain conditions.

Part IV

The principal aim of this Part is to strengthen the *protection of the civilian population*. It deals with the most important aspects of immunity from the effects of hostilities. After reaffirming the rule that the Parties to the conflict shall confine their operations to the destruction or weakening of the military resources of the adversary (Art. 43), the draft mentions various examples of the application of that rule: prohibition against attacks on the civilian population as such; prohibition against indiscriminate or terroristic methods such as area bombardment (Art. 46); the limitation of attacks to strictly military objectives (Art. 47), etc. The purpose of these rules is to prohibit the practice of indiscriminate bombing which, during the Second World War and subsequent armed conflicts, made so many victims among the civilian population.

To enable the population to survive and to avoid anything that might cause refugees to wander about, aimless and destitute, the draft provides that indispensable objects—food, crops, livestock, etc. (Art. 48)—and works or installations containing danger-

ous forces—dams, dykes and nuclear generating stations (Art. 49)—shall enjoy complete immunity from attack and destruction of any kind. Special agreements recognizing or conferring on certain localities a non-defended or neutralized status are based on the “open city” practice (Art. 52 and 53). Civil defence may be carried out both in zones of military operation and in occupied territories (Art. 55 and 56), and two proposals are made regarding an international distinctive civil defence emblem (Art. 59).

Nor does the draft overlook other important matters such as relief (Art. 60 to 62) and the treatment of persons in the power of a Party to the conflict (Art. 64 to 69). Pursuant to resolution XXVI of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, the draft has broadened the nature of permitted relief and has extended entitlement to the entire civilian population. Humane treatment is to be provided for persons (children, women and refugees) still insufficiently protected from arbitrary action on the part of the belligerents.

Part V

Section I of this Part embodies provisions relating to the implementation of the Geneva Conventions and the Protocol. Article 71, based on a suggestion by Red Cross experts, concerns the employment in the armed forces of qualified legal advisers who shall ensure that humanitarian law is appropriately taught and applied. Article 72 reaffirms the obligation to disseminate the Geneva Conventions and the additional rules as widely as possible, in time of peace as in time of armed conflict. The ICRC knows that in this regard it can continue to rely on the active co-operation of National Red Cross Societies.

Section II, entitled *Repression of Breaches of the Conventions and of the present Protocol*, supplements the penal provisions of the Geneva Conventions, in accordance with the views of the experts consulted.

Part VI

The final provisions relate mainly to questions of form (signature, ratification, registration, etc.) such as appear in any inter-

national legal instrument. Some articles, however, deal with critical matters such as reservations (Art. 85) and denunciation (Art. 87).

* * *

Draft Protocol II

This draft comprises eight Parts:

- Scope of the Protocol;
- Humane treatment of persons in the power of the parties to the conflict;
- Wounded, sick and shipwrecked persons;
- Methods and means of combat;
- Civilian population;
- Relief;
- Execution of the Protocol;
- Final provisions.

The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 contain only one article applicable in non-international armed conflict: common Article 3, which provides fundamental guarantees for all victims of such conflicts and a legal basis for the offer of services by impartial humanitarian bodies, has made it possible to improve the lot of persons affected by conflicts of that kind. It has nevertheless proved inadequate in several respects—particularly in regard to the treatment of the wounded and the sick and persons deprived of freedom. All the experts consulted considered it necessary to develop the rules applicable in non-international armed conflicts, and that is the purpose of the draft Protocol.

It should be pointed out that this draft is not meant to replace common Article 3, which continues to hold good. Common Article 3 and Protocol II would co-exist independently. Moreover, their scope would not be entirely identical: while common Article 3 applies to all non-international armed conflicts, the Protocol would

apply to conflicts of some intensity, as indicated in draft Article 1 entitled *Material field of application*. According to the second paragraph of that article, the Protocol would not apply to situations of internal disturbances and tensions.

Draft Protocol II restates numerous rules from the Geneva Conventions, adapting them to the requirements of non-international armed conflicts. It is also directly based on draft Protocol I, particularly in regard to the wounded and the sick, methods and means of combat, and the protection of the civilian population. But it does not repeat all the detailed rules contained in draft Protocol I, thereby complying with the desires of experts who earnestly stressed the need to bear in mind special fighting conditions in the context of a non-international armed conflict.

The purpose of draft Protocol II is, on the one hand, to protect the population of a High Contracting Party in whose territory a non-international armed conflict takes place against arbitrary action by the parties to the conflict which have the population in their power and, on the other hand, to protect the population against the effects of hostilities, e.g.:

- Persons who do not take part or who have ceased to take part in hostilities shall in all circumstances be treated humanely (Art. 6). If their liberty is restricted, they shall have decent internment or detention conditions (Art. 8). The wounded and the sick shall receive the care that their state of health requires (Art. 12);
- The armed forces shall abide by certain rules of behaviour in order to ensure fair combat (Art. 20 to 23), and they shall respect the civilian population (Art. 24 to 26).

The purpose of the draft Protocol is exclusively humanitarian: it concerns the human being, the moral conduct which should be adopted with regard to him and the treatment to which he is entitled. Its application would entail no change in the legal status of the parties to the conflict.

* * *

These are the proposals which will be put first to the Red Cross world and then to governments.

Owing to the armed conflicts which, alas, continue to occur, and the development of the forms and techniques of war, it is imperative to adapt the Geneva Conventions to new circumstances.

National Societies, which have steadily supported the ICRC's efforts in this sphere, now have a vital role to play in ensuring the successful outcome of this generous undertaking. At the same time as they continue to proclaim their ardent wish to see peace reign and to contribute thereto by their actions, they should remind governments and public opinion in their respective countries of the urgent need to reaffirm and develop international humanitarian law.

CONVOCATION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE

The Swiss Federal Council has invited all States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims, and all member States of the United Nations to send representatives to the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, which it is convening to meet in Geneva from 20 February to 29 March 1974.

In its *note verbale* of 24 July 1973, the Swiss Government informed the Ministries of Foreign Affairs that the Conference would consider:

- a draft Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts, and
- a draft Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts.

It also reminded the Ministries that the twenty-seventh General Assembly of the United Nations, in its Resolution 3032(XXVII), had welcomed “the readiness of the Swiss Federal Council, as communicated to the Secretary-General, to convoke a diplomatic

conference on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts". It pointed out that the ICRC had been directed by the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, at Istanbul in 1969, to work out proposals which would reaffirm and develop international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflicts. The ICRC has discharged this mandate in co-operation with the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, and with the help of government experts who met at the invitation of the ICRC in two conference sessions in 1971 and 1972. The ICRC also took the advice of various consultative expert groups which met in 1973. The draft Protocols will be submitted to the XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross at Teheran in November 1973. The comments and conclusions of the Conference will then be transmitted to the Diplomatic Conference. The reports on the two sessions of the Conference of Government Experts have already been published and sent to all Governments and National Red Cross Societies.

The Swiss Government expressed the hope that, in view of the importance and scope of the preparatory work, the Diplomatic Conference would be able to come to a final agreement and that the two Protocols would be open for signature by the plenipotentiaries before the closing of the Conference. However, it is prepared to convene a second session if it should be necessary to do so after all the important points of the two Protocols have been thoroughly examined. The second session would then take place at the same period in 1975.

The Conference is expected to split up into three commissions to consider the articles of the draft Protocols, namely:

- Commission I: general provisions;
- Commission II: wounded, sick and shipwrecked persons, civil defence, relief;
- Commission III: civilian population, methods and means of combat, new category of prisoners of war.

Switzerland being the birthplace of the Red Cross and the seat of the ICRC, the Swiss Government expressed the earnest hope that all the invited Governments would accept its invitation to participate in the Conference in order to reinforce and develop the protection extended to the victims of war by the Geneva Conventions of 1949. It informed those Governments that it had appointed Mr. Jean Humbert, Ambassador, former Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the International Organizations in Geneva, as General Commissioner of the Diplomatic Conference.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Recognition of the Fiji Red Cross Society

Geneva, 30 September 1973

Circular No. 490

*to the Central Committees of the National Red Cross, 'Red Crescent
and Red Lion and Sun Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you that the International Committee of the Red Cross, on 20 September 1973, officially recognized the Fiji Red Cross Society.

The new Society formally applied for recognition by the International Committee on 24 April 1972. Its request was supported by various documents including its Statutes, the Fiji Government Decree recognizing the Fiji Red Cross as a National Society auxiliary to the public authorities, and a report on the Society's activities.

These documents, which were examined jointly by the International Committee and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, showed that the ten qualifying conditions for recognition of a new National Society had been fulfilled.

This recognition, which the International Committee is pleased to announce, brings to 118 the total number of member Societies of the International Red Cross.

The Fiji Red Cross, which was visited in 1972 and 1973 by representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies, is active

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

throughout the territory. It is concerned, in case of conflict, with assistance to military and civilian wounded and sick and to prisoners of war. In peacetime, it goes to the aid of victims of natural disasters, alleviates suffering, and takes part in health improvement schemes, including those adopted for the prevention of disease.

The Government of Fiji acceded to the 1949 Geneva Conventions on 9 August 1971. The autonomous character of the Society is provided for in the Statutes and is guaranteed by the aforesaid Decree.

Lady Foster is President of the Society, which is directed by a Council under the chairmanship of Mrs. A. D. Leys. The Society's headquarters is at Suva.*

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Fiji Red Cross to membership of the International Red Cross, in accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies, and in expressing sincere good wishes for its future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Eric MARTIN

President

* The new Society's address is: Fiji Red Cross Society, 193 Rodwell Road, P.O. Box 569, Suva, Fiji.

Recognition of the Bangladesh Red Cross Society

Geneva, 30 September 1973

Circular No. 491

*to the Central Committees of the National Red Cross,
Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you that the International Committee of the Red Cross, on 20 September 1973, officially recognized the Bangladesh Red Cross Society.

The new Society formally applied for recognition by the International Committee on 7 May 1973. Its request was supported by various documents including its rules, the Bangladesh President's order recognizing the Bangladesh Red Cross as a National Society auxiliary to the public authorities, and a report on the Society's activities.

These documents, which were examined jointly by the International Committee and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, showed that the ten qualifying conditions for recognition of a new National Society had been fulfilled, due consideration having been taken of a letter from the Society in which it committed itself to modify the process for the designation of some of its leaders, that would more effectively guarantee its autonomy.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

This recognition, which the International Committee is pleased to announce, brings to 119 the total number of member Societies of the International Red Cross.

The Bangladesh Red Cross, which since 1972 is in permanent contact with representatives of the International Committee and of the League of Red Cross Societies, is active throughout the territory. It is concerned, in case of conflict, with assistance to military and civilian wounded and sick and to prisoners of war. In peacetime, it goes to the aid of victims of natural disasters, alleviates suffering, and takes part in health improvement schemes, including those adopted for the prevention of disease.

The Government of Bangladesh acceded to the 1949 Geneva Conventions on 4 April 1972.

His Excellency Justice Abu Sayeed Choudhury, Head of the State, is President of the Society, which is directed by a General Body under the chairmanship of Mr. Gazi Golam Mostafa. The Society's headquarters is at Dacca.*

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Bangladesh Red Cross to membership of the International Red Cross, in accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies, and in expressing sincere good wishes for its future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Eric MARTIN

President

* The new Society's address is: Bangladesh Red Cross Society, Amin Court Building, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dacca 2

Recognition of the Singapore Red Cross Society

Geneva, 30 September 1973

Circular No. 492

*to the Central Committees of the National Red Cross, Red Crescent
and Red Lion and Sun Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you that the International Committee of the Red Cross, on 20 September 1973 officially recognized the Singapore Red Cross Society.

The new Society formally applied for recognition by the International Committee on 31 August 1973. Its request was supported by various documents including its Statutes, the Singapore Government Act recognizing the Singapore Red Cross as a National Society auxiliary to the public authorities, and a report on the Society's activities.

These documents, which were examined jointly by the International Committee and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies, showed that the ten qualifying conditions for recognition of a new National Society had been fulfilled. Nevertheless, the Society must still try to obtain from the authorities an amendment of the Government Act, which would change the process for the designation of some of its leaders, that would more effectively guarantee its autonomy.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

This recognition, which the International Committee is pleased to announce, brings to 120 the total number of member Societies of the International Red Cross.

The Singapore Red Cross, which was visited on many occasions by representatives of the International Committee and of the League of Red Cross Societies, is active throughout the territory. It is concerned, in case of conflict, with assistance to military and civilian wounded and sick and to prisoners of war. In peacetime, it goes to the aid of victims of natural disasters, alleviates suffering, and takes part in health improvement schemes, including those adopted for the prevention of disease.

The Government of Singapore acceded to the 1949 Geneva Conventions on 27 April 1973.

His Excellency Dr. B. H. Sheares, President of the Republic of Singapore, is Patron of the Society, which is directed by a Council under the chairmanship of Dr. W. R. Rasanayagam. The Society's headquarters is at Singapore *.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Singapore Red Cross to membership of the International Red Cross, in accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies, and in expressing sincere good wishes for its future and for the success of its humanitarian work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Eric MARTIN

President

* The new Society's address is: Singapore Red Cross Society, 15 Penang Lane, Singapore 9.

*EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES***Burundi**

From 7 to 21 August, two delegates of the ICRC visited the following places of detention: Bujumbura, Bubanza, Muyinga, Ruyigi, Gitega, Muramvya, Ngozi, Rumonge, Bururi and Rutana. They distributed blankets, clothing, soap and games to the prisoners.

Contrary to the customary practice, and at the request of the Ministry of Justice, the ICRC agreed that these visits should be carried out, as an exception, in the presence of a witness. The ICRC delegates were assured that during future visits they would be able to interview detainees privately, as had been the case in the seven rounds of visits the ICRC had made to Burundi prisons between 1962 and 1971. Their findings and suggestions will, as usual, be embodied in confidential reports to the responsible authorities.

Chile

On 24 September, the ICRC announced that it was despatching to Santiago one of its regional delegates, accompanied by a delegate and a doctor from Geneva.

The ICRC doctor and the Minister of Health surveyed the medical situation. The medical infrastructure being adequate, there is no need for the time being to send out medical teams. On the other hand, certain medical supplies are required, particularly infusions and vaccines. The ICRC has made a preliminary despatch of first-aid material to Chile, and a second despatch is being prepared. These relief supplies supplement the local purchases made in August which were delivered to the Chilean Red Cross during an assignment carried out by the ICRC Delegate-General for Latin America.

In Santiago, the delegates also conferred with the Vice-Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and the Interior, and with the Assistant Director of Prisons. They were given a general written authorization to visit places of detention and to interview detainees without witnesses. They twice visited the Santiago national stadium, where some 5,000 people are being detained following the events.

On 27 September an ICRC team went to the south of the country to start a round of visits to places of detention with the authorization of the Chilean authorities.

Two offices for the tracing of missing persons and for the transmission of family messages have been opened, one at the National Red Cross Society's headquarters and one within the Santiago stadium.

The first ton of emergency medical supplies from the ICRC was delivered to the Chilean Red Cross in Santiago on 22 September. Two more tons of medical supplies were dispatched subsequently. The League's stock of clothing and blankets stored with the National Society has been distributed to the detainees in the stadium.

Asian sub-continent

Repatriation operations between Pakistan and Bangladesh

The first repatriations started on 28 August, with the transport from Pakistan to Bangladesh of 125 Bengalis and the transport from Kathmandu to Karachi of about a hundred Pakistanis who had been held up in Nepal for several months. When the first series of operations is completed, by means of some forty flights, about 5,000 Bengalis and 5,000 Pakistanis will have returned to their own countries. By 14 September, 2,700 persons had already been repatriated.

Another series, involving the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees, started on 19 September, under the agreements signed by India and Pakistan on 28 August 1973. From Dacca to Lahore, an aircraft carried Pakistani prisoners of war who had been held in Bangladesh, and civilian internees from a camp near Dacca. In the opposite direction, it brought some Bengali soldiers and their families back to Bangladesh.

The ICRC, which had regularly visited all these persons in Pakistan and Bangladesh, had for several months been registering applicants for repatriation. It sent the lists to the governments concerned.

Those leaving were supplied by the ICRC at the airport with an *ad hoc* identity document with the necessary visas. Actual transport is provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in two aircraft chartered at its request by the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM).

Repatriation operations from India to Pakistan

Two repatriation operations carried out under the auspices of the ICRC allowed 185 wounded and sick Pakistani prisoners of war to go home. They took place on 29 August (two prisoners) and 15 September (183 prisoners), at the Indo-Pakistan frontier post of Wagah.

India

In August, ICRC delegates in India visited some thirty camps in which they saw about 50,000 Pakistani prisoners of war and civilian internees.

During that same period, the ICRC transmitted cash donations from Pakistan amounting to 72,550 Swiss francs, and donations in kind (spectacles, books, medicaments, etc.) to a value of 3,450 Swiss francs. The Central Tracing Agency handled 795,000 Red Cross messages, namely 335,000 to prisoners of war from Pakistan and 460,000 in the opposite direction.

Pakistan

ICRC delegates in Pakistan have over the past few weeks continued their visits to places of detention holding internees of Bengali origin. Towards the end of August, they went to the Dera Khan, Kohat, Verdan, Swabi, Charsada and Bannu prisons. During the month of September, they visited Bengalis in the prisons of Mach (Baluchistan), Gujranwala (Punjab), Kasur, Fort Sandeman, Loralai, Lahore and Lyallpur.

They also visited some 15,000 Bengalis (army men and their families) in the Fort Sandeman, Loralai, Zamzama and Quetta "repatriation centres".

Middle East

Visits to prisoners of war

ICRC delegates in the Arab Republic of Egypt and Israel continued their visits to prisoners of war. As usual, they were able to talk to them without witnesses.

In the Arab Republic of Egypt, an ICRC delegate visited the ten Israeli prisoners of war on 27 August and 11 September. *In Israel*, the fifty-six Egyptian prisoners of war were visited on 29 August and 13 September.

On 14 September, an ICRC delegate visited, in an Israel hospital, a wounded Syrian pilot taken prisoner by the Israel armed forces after an air combat.

Family re-uniting operations

On 4 and 5 September, two family re-uniting operations took place across the Suez Canal, under the auspices of the ICRC, enabling 318 persons to cross over to the west bank and 203 to the east bank.

Yemen Arab Republic

The ICRC offered relief supplies for the flood victims in the Taiz area. The Yemeni authorities accepted the offer and contributed six lorryloads of flour to the operation. On 18 and 19 August, several distributions were made in the presence of the Yemeni authorities and the ICRC, at Haifan and Mafalis, in the governorate of Taiz. About 500 persons received blankets and food for a month (altogether 5 tons of rice, 250 kg of sugar, 60 kg of tea and 6 lorryloads of wheat).



Arrival at the embarkation point on the Suez Canal...

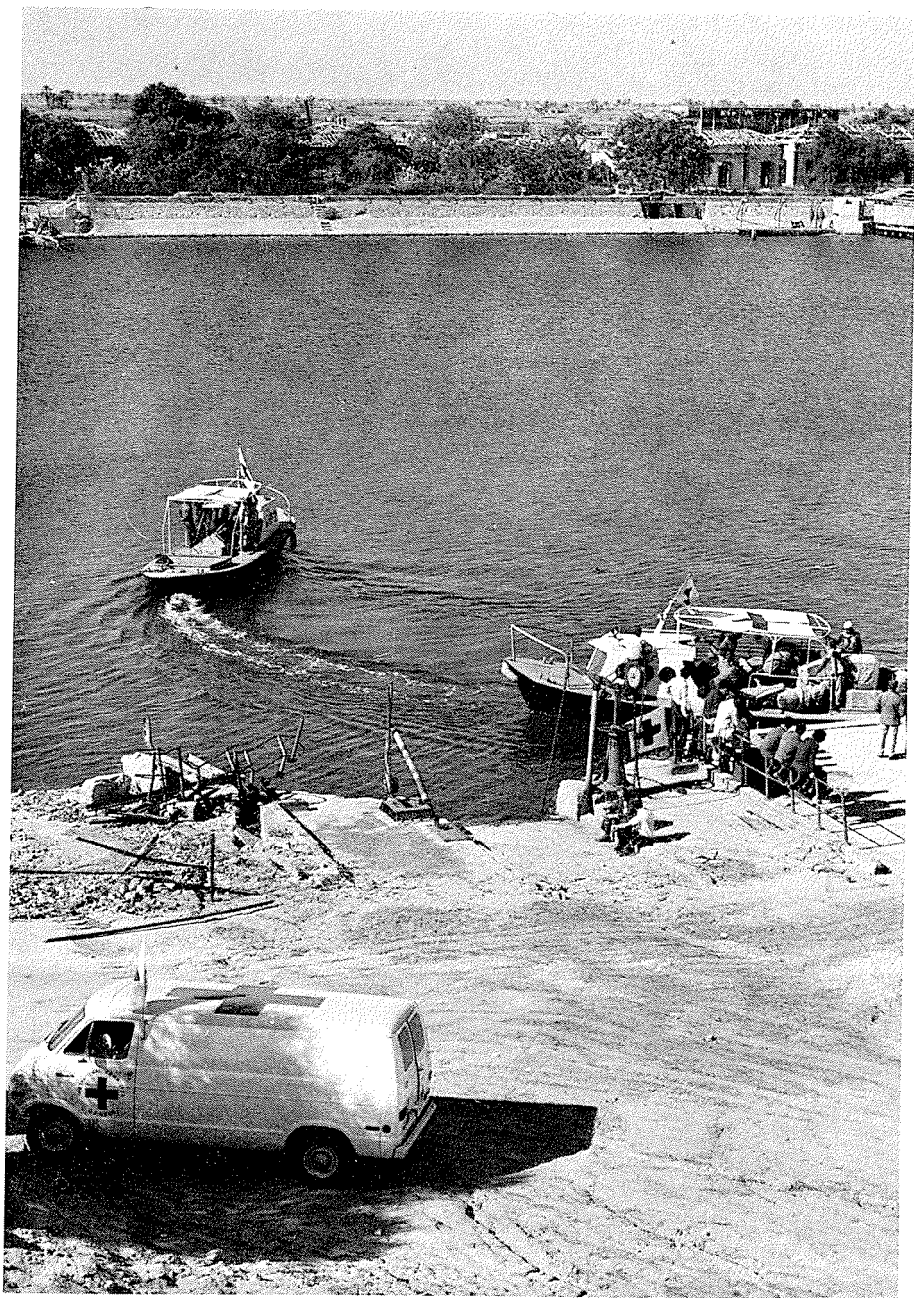
Family reuniting operation under ICRC auspices

— Spring 1973 —

Photos F. Bory / ICRC

... settling aboard a launch ...





... the start of the crossing.

Photo F. Bory / ICRC

Families Re-united by the Red Cross

Frequent mention has been made, in the International Review, of families being re-united by the ICRC at El Qantara in the Suez Canal area. Thanks to the ICRC, a great many people from Israeli-occupied territory have been able to rejoin their families in the Arab Republic of Egypt, and other people in that Republic to cross over to the East bank of the canal. Miss Françoise Bory, an ICRC press attaché, witnessed one of these operations some time ago. Her report, reproduced below, describes its various stages.

As we go to press, war rages again in the region, but we think readers may nevertheless be interested in the following article, for family re-uniting has been no small part of the work of ICRC delegates in the Near East for several years.

* * *

On that day, the work of ICRC representatives in the occupied territories of Gaza and Sinai began at 3 a.m. Day had not yet dawned but cock-grows could already be heard when the vehicles bearing the Red Cross insignia took off. At the Military Governor's office in Gaza, the delegates were joined by the Israeli liaison officer who was to accompany them throughout their mission.

The families had been asked to collect in Medinah Square at 3.30 a.m. Two large buses, some ambulances and army jeeps were there, waiting for them. In addition, some 50 people, relatives or neighbours of those about to depart to the other side of the Canal, were also present to see them off.

The first stop was the town of El Arish, the gateway to Sinai and some 100 km away. Night driving in this part of the world, however, is vastly different from Europe. The constant humps in the road, the absence of road lighting and road signs make the journey tiring and hazardous.

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As dawn began to break, the convoy drew into El Arish. The customs formalities in the courtyard of an army building were unhurried and calm. As it was cold, the people about to depart gathered up their innumerable suitcases and packages quickly in order to get into the now fairly warm buses as soon as possible after customs clearance.

It was 5 a.m. by the time the convoy was able to begin its journey across the 200 km of desert between El Arish and the Suez Canal. Once out of town, it followed a road through a palm plantation along the seashore, and at sunrise the landscape of sand, palmtrees and sea was a mass of incredibly soft colours. Then the desert began, with sand dunes on our left, and on our right the long blue ribbon of the sea with an occasional sandhill. We saw quite a few oases and every now and then, a goat-herd, a heavily-loaded dromedary, or a lone proud Bedouin walking along the road.

The sun was blazing by the time the convoy reached the edge of the military zone, a very different kind of landscape. Here it was just flat desert as far as the eye could see. The road was even more difficult and narrower than previously, and the vehicles had to zigzag to avoid the numerous potholes, which was excessively trying for both the suspension and the passengers. On the outskirts of El Qantara the convoy halted, and Red Cross flags were hoisted on the front right wing of each vehicle.

This unusual procession of vehicles then proceeded through the abandoned town until a blue rectangle, the Suez Canal, came into sight between two houses in ruin. The convoy halted and a large Red Cross flag was hoisted. Unloading began while waiting for the arrival of two boats which had sailed out of Ismailia a few hours previously. A short while later, they came in sight, moving along the opposite bank. ICRC delegates from Cairo were on board, eagerly waving to us. On reaching the spot where we stood, the boats hove to. For several hours, these boats shuttled back and forth between one bank and the other, at first carrying only luggage and parcels for prisoners of war in both countries.¹

¹ *Plate.*

By 3 p.m., twelve hours after our departure from Gaza, the transfer of passengers began.¹ The first boat took on 30 passengers, amidst much confusion and with everybody pushing and shouting. Carrying an extraordinary variety of goods and chattels, including the odd transistor radio, women in bedouin dress with veiled faces, and men—mostly aged ones—settled down as best they could to cross the canal, 200 m wide at that spot.

On the opposite bank, it was the turn of the passengers coming over to ours. Once the last passenger load had crossed over, the Red Cross flags were lowered on each bank. The delegates took leave of each other before making their return journey. It was after 4 p.m. by the time the boats sailed away, flags flying. For the last five years these boats have been the only ones allowed to sail on the Canal.

Once again the convoy began to move, on its 250-km journey back to Gaza, which we reached late that night.

¹ *Plate.*

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR CENTRAL AFRICA

In co-operation with the Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, the League of Red Cross Societies organized a Regional Training Institute for National Society leaders in Central Africa. The League was represented at the Institute, which met in Kinshasa from 6 to 22 August 1973, by Mr. Meurant, Special Assistant to the Secretary-General; Mr. Araya, in charge of African Affairs, and Mr. Grunfeld, Regional Delegate. The ICRC was represented by Miss Perret, Delegate.

The purpose of the Institute was to train officials to assume the responsibilities of leadership in the Red Cross Societies of Central Africa, with emphasis on the special problems which have to be faced by the emergent or new Societies. It was attended by twenty-nine participants selected from the personnel and voluntary workers of recognized or emerging Societies of seven countries, namely Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, People's Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and the Republic of Zaire. The courses were given by Zairian instructors (sociologists, economists, management specialists) and by the League and ICRC representatives. The teaching was both practical and theoretical, with a view to enabling participants upon returning to their own countries to develop their National Societies and to implement programmes appropriate to the needs of the community.

Three days were devoted to the study of the International Red Cross, the structure of which was explained by the League and ICRC delegates. Miss Perret gave a talk on the Geneva Conventions, which was followed by a discussion on the use of and respect for the red cross sign, the conditions to be fulfilled by a National Society in order to qualify for recognition, and the preparation for

the Diplomatic Conference. Then, in five working groups, participants considered how Societies could disseminate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among the population. They also attended the showing of the film "Red Cross on a white field".

The League delegates lectured on the way ideas about the Red Cross had evolved internationally and they directed work and discussions on subjects on the agenda: health education—relief—finance and management—fund raising—blood transfusion—past development of the Red Cross in Africa—the role of the voluntary worker.

All displayed keen interest in the instruction received; they realized the importance of Red Cross activities, particularly the dissemination of humanitarian law principles, which constituted a factor for peace in the world. In addition, they studied administration and public relations methods which would be useful to them in the discharge of the responsibilities they shoulder in their own countries under the sign of the red cross.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LEAGUE

The 1972 Annual Report of the League of Red Cross Societies, with fifty-two pages and many illustrations, contains information under the following headings: Conclusions of the Executive Committee, General activities, Relief, Disaster relief preparedness, Health, Social Welfare, Nursing, Youth, Information, International relations, Administration and Personnel, and Financial situation.

In the Introduction, Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League, refers to the institution's undertakings and achievements in various fields in the course of the year. He appraises the "less

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satisfactory aspects " due to limited resources for ever-increasing tasks, but he also stresses the outstanding work of organizing and running seminars and training institutes to help many National Societies to shoulder their responsibilities more fully and effectively. He also draws attention to the emergencies with which the League has had to cope.

"... With regard to the special effort made by the Secretariat in training personnel, mention should be made of the importance of the work required in the organization of Training Institutes and technical seminars. This is a great challenge, as nothing less is involved than to increase the efficiency of the organization, to work in a more constructive way, and to give added impetus to the common efforts of working groups. These are all decisive factors in human development, which is another major activity of the Red Cross.

At the same time Red Cross solidarity has rarely been put to the test to such an extent. In 1972 the League had to cope with 20 emergency situations in 16 countries, in particular in Bangladesh where the situation of thousands of people made it necessary to mobilize the members of the Federation while continuing its action for displaced persons and refugees in war-torn countries, on the Asian continent in particular.

These actions once again showed the overriding necessity of National Societies—in particular those in the disaster belt—making adequate preparations for disasters, establishing relief plans and having qualified personnel for relief actions "...

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ASSISTANCE IN INDO-CHINA

International Red Cross Assistance for Indo-China is expanding its activities to the full extent that financial and material support provided by Governments and National Societies makes possible.

Democratic Republic of Vietnam

The programme for emergency prefabricated housing in Hanoi and Haiphong is now gathering momentum. The group of experts has virtually completed its task of examining tenders from a number of countries and companies, based on the detailed specifications drawn up in consultation with the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Several large orders have been placed and options arranged for others as and when funds become available. Preparations for sites and the provision of infrastructure material are also proceeding well.

Republic of Vietnam

The teams of the Indo-China Operational Group (IOG) are continuing their activities. On 15 September, a medical team provided by the Netherlands Red Cross started work in the Chaudoc area. The team, which is composed of a doctor and two nurses, will concentrate mainly on the care of Cambodian refugees in various camps. Two French doctors in the Plei Mnang area provide treatment for the Vietnamese *montagnard* population.

Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam

Medical expert groups from the IOG and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam met in Hanoi in August for discussions concerning the equipment of a 250-bed hospital. It was decided that the hospital would be a fixed regional general hospital also serving as a medical college hospital with training facilities for graduates and post-graduates.

Khmer Republic

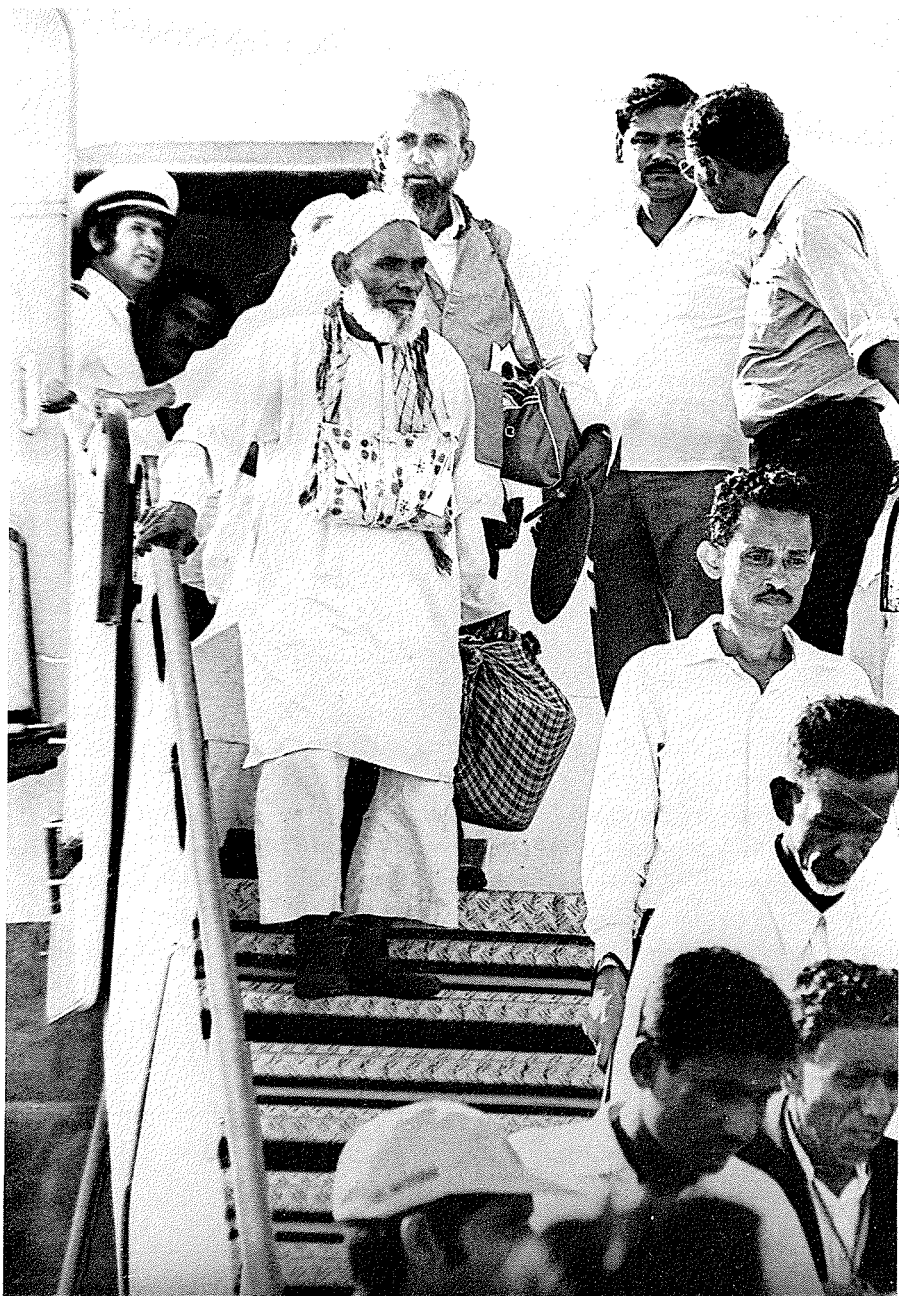
In addition to the heavy workload at the Kantha Bopha children's hospital, the paediatric team of the Swiss Red Cross is also providing basic medical care in several camps for displaced persons in Phnom Penh. A new surgical team made available by the Belgian Red Cross is at work at Svay Rieng. At the time of writing, a joint Danish-Norwegian team is being assembled for work in Kampong Thom. The Swedish Red Cross has already formed a surgical team to be stationed in Phnom Penh and available for immediate short-term operations in areas which suffer from the fluctuating war in the country.

Laos

The French Red Cross team is working in rural areas along the Mekong river south-east of Paksane. The British team is also at work in the Paksane hospital and in that town's surroundings. In August, it provided treatment for more than 1,650 patients. In some fifteen villages in Pak Lay, the Japanese team has launched a vaccination campaign for more than 2,600 persons. The Swiss medical team has also concentrated on a vaccination campaign for the Meo people of the mountains south of Luang Prabang; during the week from 20 to 25 September, more than 4,000 persons were immunized.

Pathet Lao

Medicaments are sent weekly by air from Vientiane to Sam Neua for the population of areas under Pathet Lao control.



Arrival in Dacca of first group of Bengalis repatriated from Pakistan under ICRC auspices.



Cairo: Distribution of relief supplies to displaced persons by the Egyptian Red Crescent and ICRC (*July 1973*).

Rangoon: ICRC regional delegate in South East Asia (*left*) received by members of the Executive Committee of the Burma Red Cross.



Burma

The ICRC regional delegate for South-East Asia, Mr. A. Tschiffeli, visited Rangoon at the beginning of September 1973. He met several leaders of the Burma Red Cross,¹ the Deputy Minister for Social Affairs, and representatives of the Interior and Defence Ministries.

Mr. Tschiffeli visited the offices of the National Society, located in a large building in the centre of the capital, which houses the administrative organs of the Red Cross. This society has many branches in all the provinces and its members include relief workers, some very active juniors, social workers and health educators. In fact, the Society is making a useful contribution to the country's social development plans. It organizes first-aid training courses in villages, and courses in maternal and child welfare. It also does useful work on protection against snake bites in many areas.

Relief work is, however, the main activity, as Mr. Tschiffeli observed when it was arranged for him to visit Mingaladon, 15 km from the capital, where he was met by the personnel of the local branch of the Red Cross in that village. He was accompanied by the Secretary-General of the Burma Red Cross and members of the Central Committee, and was welcomed with songs and dances by local teachers and their pupils, the leaders and members of the Junior Red Cross. He made a short statement, describing those ideals of the Red Cross which are universally acknowledged and the work at present being carried out by the ICRC. It should be mentioned, in this connection, that the Burmese edition of "The Red Cross and My Country" is now in use in Burmese schools.

More than a hundred relief workers aged 15-20 from various villages in the area then gave a demonstration of first aid which they performed entirely successfully, vastly impressing the audience. By their skill and great consideration towards the simulated casualties, these young people amply demonstrated the usefulness of their humanitarian mission.

¹ *Plate.*

*DISSEMINATION OF
THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS*

JAPAN

The Japanese Red Cross constantly endeavours to give the widest possible publicity to the Geneva Conventions throughout the country, and in so doing stresses the educational value of a better understanding of the Conventions. For this reason, the Society has obtained the help of the teaching profession in working out and experimenting with highly efficient methods to facilitate dissemination by the Junior Red Cross.

Attention is drawn to the remarkably interesting article by Mrs. Sachiko Hashimoto, Co-Chairman of the Japanese Junior Red Cross, published in the *International Review* of December 1961 under the title "What the Japanese Junior Red Cross is doing about disseminating the Geneva Conventions". In this article, Mrs. Hashimoto stated that the first step, for this purpose, had been to get teachers involved, interested and informed.

In a report which Mrs. Hashimoto recently sent to the ICRC, she described some of the achievements of the National Society, based on the Red Cross principles as analysed and commented on by Mr. Jean Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC.¹

Some extracts from this report are reproduced below:

"The aim of disseminating the Geneva Conventions in Japan is not meant for having our youth orientated in the practical details of the legal aspects, but more for inspiring youth with the moral value to implement in their every-day life rather than wartime usefulness.

This type of approach has been so well accepted by teachers and students that the Conventions have become a popular, compulsory subject at all our training courses throughout the year.

¹ *Red Cross Principles*, ICRC, Geneva, 1955.

In 1972, for instance, there were organized on national level five courses for adult leaders, such as teachers, principals, superintendents and chapter directors, and one for high school student leaders. Four of the six were attended by 100 people each time and the other two by 60 each, making a total of 520. What is more, one more special intensified course was added in Tokyo for 16 experienced leaders, school teachers, college students, head nurses and ex-JRC director at the very end of the year 1972, under the direct guidance of Mr. Masutaro Inouye with the reference materials he had made himself."

* * *

TANZANIA

Here is some information that the ICRC has received about what the Tanganyikan Red Cross is doing to make the Geneva Conventions known in its country.

(a) Schools

The National Society has received a number of copies of the textbook *The Red Cross and My Country* and is passing them on to the Ministry of Education which will have them distributed in all schools.

(b) Army and Police

The Red Cross organised seven lectures on the Geneva Conventions illustrated by slides and films. The *Soldier's Manual*, likewise published by the ICRC, has been sent to the Ministry of Defence.

(c) Medical and Nursing Circles

The booklets on the *Rights and Duties of Nurses* have been handed to the Ministry of Health and to the Central Nurses Bureau.

The Red Cross will be getting in touch with the universities as soon as it has the necessary documentation.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

COLLOQUIUM AT THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HUMANITARIAN LAW

Two subjects were on the agenda of the colloquium organized at San Remo by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law from 28 to 30 June 1973.

I

Reuniting of dispersed families

In its concern to contribute to seeking a solution to the tragic problem of families whose members were still separated, the Institute invited jurists from a number of countries as well as representatives of humanitarian institutions, including the ICRC, the League and the Italian, Norwegian and Swedish National Red Cross Societies, to examine the various aspects of this problem, from the legal as well as from the sociological standpoint.

Papers were presented by Col. G.I.A.D. Draper on "Sovereignty, Human Rights and Family Life in Contemporary International Law", and by Professor J. Patrignic on "Problématique humanitaire du regroupement de familles", while the role of the Red Cross was mentioned by several other speakers. In this respect, Mr. H. G. Beckh outlined the different phases of the operation carried out by the ICRC in co-operation with National Societies, to bring families together in Europe after the end of the Second World War.

Miss M. Katz, representing the ICRC, spoke of the work undertaken by the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva and in other parts of the world during the last few years in connection with its efforts to reunite members of dispersed families. She reviewed the essential tasks of the Agency: the assembly of card-indexes, transmission of family messages, personal enquiries, etc., in which operations, very often the necessary preliminaries to the actual task of bringing

a family together again, the National Societies co-operated. The representative of the Swedish Red Cross described the work carried out in Sweden in this field. The round-table meeting closed its deliberations with the following resolution:¹

Referring to the basic principles of human rights and of international humanitarian law,

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and International Conferences of the Red Cross in the field of the respect for and the effective application of basic human rights and of rules of humanitarian law,

Recalling the rules of existing international instruments concerning the protection of the human person in all circumstances,

Considering that those rules have retained their full value in spite of obstacles preventing their full application,

Recognizing the significance of the heartening results obtained in the field of the reuniting of families in several countries,

Recognizing the significance of the efforts undertaken by international and national institutions in the field of the reuniting of families, in particular by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, by the International Committee of the Red Cross and National Red Cross Societies, and by the International Union for Child Welfare,

Considering that the teaching of knowledge of human rights and of international humanitarian law should form an integral part of education at all levels of the population as only a full and clear understanding of those rights can widen the scope of the possibilities of their employment and effective application,

Notes that, in accordance with article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, " the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State ",

that, in accordance with principle 8 of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, " the child shall in all circumstances be among the first to receive protection and relief ",

that, as a result of armed conflicts, disturbances and other critical situations occurring in different parts of the world, large numbers of families are dispersed and the reuniting of their members is hindered by major obstacles, and that no one should remain indifferent to the ensuing suffering, and

¹ Our translation.

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that it is indispensable that existing humanitarian rules be strengthened and developed in order to ensure more effective protection by specifying:

- (a) categories of protected persons in their widest possible sense;
- (b) humanitarian and social criteria by which it might be possible to establish ways and means for the reuniting of families ;

Requests Governments to take all possible measures for facilitating the reuniting of families and for granting intergovernmental, non-governmental and voluntary international organizations, as well as their appropriate national organizations, all possible assistance in their efforts to promote the reuniting of families ;

Suggests that a conference of experts contribute towards the drafting of effective solutions to be brought to the problems of the reuniting of dispersed families.

II

Humanitarian Law and Telecommunications

In the second part of the colloquium, Professor de la Pradelle gave a very full account of the general problems, in respect of the development of humanitarian law, raised by telecommunications, where space matters in particular were concerned. Mr. Smith, of the International Telecommunication Union, drew up a list of the various possibilities made available by the technical regulations in force, while, at a more practical level, the representative of the ICRC, Mr. de Mulinen, explained what were the benefits derived from telecommunications for the strengthening of the protection provided for civilian and military medical transports in armed conflicts.

The following resolution was adopted : ¹

Having in mind the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the peaceful uses of outer space, in particular Section D in respect of satellites of resolution 1721 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, stating the principle that communication by means of satellites should be available to the nations of the world on a global and non-discriminatory basis,

¹ Our translation.

Having in mind the resolution adopted by the 1962 Unesco General Conference, recalling the boundless prospects opened up through the tremendous advances made by technical progress, for the free circulation of information, education and the universal dissemination of knowledge which are its major objectives.

Recalling the resolutions adopted by International Conferences of the Red Cross on telecommunications, in particular resolution XXVII of the XXIst International Conference on the utilization of scientific data for the co-ordination of international relief actions,

Paying tribute to the work carried out by the International Telecommunication Union for drawing up rules and preparing plans regarding the security of telecommunications of a humanitarian nature, as well as to the work undertaken by the International Committee of the Red Cross with the object of adapting international law to the technical means available for the amelioration of the treatment of victims of conflicts, in particular in the field of medical transports, by its proposal, in a special Protocol, to protect such transports by a system of identification utilizing telecommunication devices,

Desiring to co-operate, as far as its means allow it, with governments and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the work they have undertaken to utilize the advanced techniques of telecommunications to relieve situations of danger and distress affecting human lives and to effect a general improvement in the lot of human beings,

Insists that international humanitarian law, considered as being that section of the law evolved for the safeguard and amelioration of the lot of human beings, should not be improperly deflected to other ends ;

Emphasizes its determination to spread the rules of international humanitarian law by constantly seeking further to improve technical means, including telecommunications, as well as the legal instruments relating to them.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Sean MacBride, Amnesty International held its sixth Council Meeting in Vienna from 14 to 16 September 1973. The meeting was attended by about 120 participants. The ICRC was represented by Mr. G. Winteler, legal adviser.

One of the principal subjects of the Council Meeting was the campaign for the abolition of torture, as decided at Amnesty International's fifth Council Meeting (Utrecht, 8 to 10 September 1972). To follow this up, an international conference will be held in Paris in December 1973, and an ad hoc secretariat has been constituted.

The conference is meant to mobilize international opinion, for torture is a "crime against humanity" that concerns not only sovereign States, but every individual. Amnesty International's Executive Committee has been instructed to draw up a plan of action following the conference. All over the world, signatures will be collected on a petition for the abolition of torture which will be addressed to the United Nations. The International Executive Committee has drafted a resolution on the abolition of torture and on the treatment of prisoners which will also be submitted to the United Nations.

A VOTE FOR THE RED CROSS

"To what humanitarian cause would you suggest giving the hundred thousand Swiss francs which we are offering in this competition? Indicate your choice in not more than fifteen words."

This subsidiary question to a commercial competition showed a spontaneous landslide in favour of the Red Cross.

To celebrate its one-hundred-and-twentieth birthday, one of the most famous Swiss watch manufacturers launched this competition last September, with a thousand prizes ranging from a round-the-

word cruise to a watch. The originality of the competition was that it had a humanitarian aspect which took the nature of a plebiscite to decide which good cause would receive the award as well as to decide the prizewinners.

It was expected that 150,000 replies would be received; there were in fact half a million. They came in every language from many countries: 72,000 from Japan, 21,000 from Australia, 16,000 from India, 14,000 from Mexico, 32,000 from the Federal Republic of Germany, 28,000 from Finland, 20,000 from Switzerland, and so on.

The first prize, of 50,000 Swiss francs, went to a young Malayan living at Slim River near Kuala Lumpur, and the donation to a humanitarian cause went to the Malaysian Red Cross as he had recommended in his answer to the subsidiary question.

His reply was considered the best: the young man nominated the local section of the Malaysian Red Cross as recipient of the 100,000 Swiss francs donation for the purchase of a "mobile-clinic for our rural expansion scheme for the benefit of all". This was the only reply conveying both the idea of the Red Cross universality and a definite project for the use of the sum offered by the Swiss watch manufacturer.

The prizewinner was not the only person to nominate the Red Cross in his reply to the subsidiary question. Most competitors did so, placing it in the lead followed by UNICEF and cancer research.

The motivation of the choice is revealing: it was mostly the competitors from developing countries who voted for the Red Cross and for UNICEF, while those in North America and Europe voted mainly for cancer research.

The most significant thing, however, is no doubt that most competitors, explaining their choice, referred to "impartiality", "help without discrimination", "neutrality", "political independence", "unity", "assistance in all circumstances". These are the very words of the Red Cross principles: proof that Henry Dunant's idea, after more than a century, is still unanimously approved in all latitudes.

A NEW PROFESSIONAL IMAGE FOR NURSES

Under this title, the review "La Croix-Rouge Suisse" (Berne, 1973, No. 4) has published an article in which Mme Liliane Berger, President of the Swiss Association for Qualified Nurses, refers to the changes which have taken place during the last few years in the nursing profession, and whilst stressing the importance of nursing assistance, she discusses the importance, in this field, of professional training. An extract is given below :

The constant development of medicine and the evolution of society in the industrialized countries has led to a continual increase in the need for nursing assistance.

The profession will be able to meet this need in years to come only if it is dynamic, suited to present-day living conditions, and is able to interest and satisfy a substantial proportion of the younger generation, whether boys or girls.

A new image must be created for the profession of male or female nurse to replace the traditional image—or rather the superimposed and sometimes contradictory images—which the public, patients and health workers have formed in their mind; for example, that it is:

- a typically feminine profession, requiring gentleness, devotion and self-denial,
- an ideal preparation for marriage,
- an exacting and tiring profession, calling for a strong constitution,
- a profession in which one is called to serve, and in which obedience, respect for the regulations and traditions are of greater importance than intelligence and knowledge,
- technical work, contributing to medicine and hospital work,
- a profession which is becoming increasingly exacting and is seeking to gain closer affinity with medicine,

- an interesting career, but poorly paid,
- a profession where views are not expressed, and others decide your future for you.

It is true that the profession has in the past been marked with all of these characteristics. Whirled away in the rapid development of medicine and hospital facilities, in the thriving development of new techniques for nursing patients, and the creation of new categories of paramedical and auxiliary staff, even the nurses themselves—both male and female—no longer know exactly where they stand!

Numerous comments and studies made throughout the world by nurses and their professional associations have led to the publication by the International Council of Nurses of a definition of the main objectives of the profession: to assist the individual, whether he be in poor or good health, in activities which contribute to maintaining or restoring health (or to a peaceful end) and which he would himself perform, had he the strength or will-power, or the necessary knowledge, and to provide this assistance in such a way that whoever receives it may be able to regain his independence as soon as possible. In this aspect of her work, it is the nurse who has the initiative and control; it is the field in which she is especially competent. Furthermore, she helps the patient to follow the treatment ordered by the doctor. As a member of a team of health workers, she also helps the other members, just as she is helped by them, in working out and implementing the programme as a whole, whether it relates to improving health, to the recovery of a patient or tending a dying person.

This definition, which is marked by a change in concept tending towards preventive medicine, and not simply curative medicine, highlights the increasing importance given to the rehabilitation of patients into an active life, as well as the essential collaboration among teams of health workers. It demonstrates the active part that can be played by male and female nurses, not only in hospital services, of course, but also in the field of public health, by pro-

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viding home nursing, helping to educate the public in health matters, and preventing and tracking down disease.

In this connection, nursing assistance is not confined to carrying out orders given by the doctor, or to departmental routines. The male or female nurse is responsible for preparing, for each patient or individual placed in his or her care, an assessment of his resources and needs, bearing in mind his particular state of health, and for determining how, and by whom, this assistance may best be given. This aspect of nursing duties calls for sensitivity, a great capacity for comprehension, a thorough knowledge and good judgement. The assistance given is not only of a physical and technical nature, but must as far as possible also meet the needs which patients and those around them have for security, relationships and information. At a time when so many individuals in a society—and this is particularly true of hospital patients—feel lost in a technical and inhuman world, this assistance must be the concern of all those whose profession it is to tend others.

Another important aspect of “ present-day ” nursing assistance appears in this definition. This is the place devoted to active participation by the patient or individual. The nurse should not replace him in everything that he can do or knows how to do by himself. On the contrary, nurses must encourage him to keep his independence, or regain it as soon as possible. This has direct consequences on the hospital service equipment which is still all too frequently designed for bed-ridden and totally dependent patients; it also has repercussions on the development of home help services and policlinics.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF REFUGEES

A study on "Human Rights and Refugees" appeared in the October and November 1972 issues of International Review. Its author, Mr. P. Weis, suggested that the evolution in this special field might be of interest for the wider problem of the protection of human rights and the question of the status of individuals in international law. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has just issued a publication on its work during the last year (Geneva, December 1972), in which an article reflects its concern about these problems and gives figures on the situation at the end of 1972 regarding international and regional conventions and agreements relating to the protection of refugees and to statelessness. We believe some extracts from this article would be of interest to our readers.

The urgent nature of these questions was emphasized by the recent events in Uganda, when thousands of persons were able to leave the country thanks to the arrangement negotiated by the mission despatched to Kampala by the Secretary-General. The delegation of the ICRC, working in close co-operation with the delegates of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, issued "ICRC travel documents" to over 4,000 persons who were stateless or of undetermined nationality, permitting them to go to countries offering resettlement or to transit centres in Europe as a stepping-stone to countries accepting them as immigrants.

...In 1972, efforts were continued to secure accessions to the main international instruments in the field of international protection. The number of parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which defines the rights of refugees and sets out the standard of treatment to which they are entitled, increased by two in 1972 to a total of 63, while the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, which extends the application of the

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1951 Convention to new groups of refugees, has now been ratified by 52 countries, an increase of four since the end of 1971.

At the same time, UNHCR tried to ensure that Governments which had acceded to these instruments effectively applied their provisions through legislation or administrative practice. In the course of 1972, seventeen more Governments replied to the detailed UNHCR questionnaire concerning the measures adopted to give effect to commitments under the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, making a total of 37 replies at the end of October. The information supplied by these Governments indicates that in only very few cases is there a lack of conformity between current procedures and the requirements of the Convention.

Within the framework of efforts to promote wider understanding of international instruments in this field, the Director of Protection, Mr. E.K. Dadzie, undertook missions to Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Uganda. He found a general willingness to give effect to the standards defined in the 1951 Convention, notwithstanding some of the special difficulties faced by developing countries, for example in according refugees the right to gainful employment. Particular stress was laid by Mr. Dadzie on the need to determine the refugee status of asylum seekers without delay and to avoid measures such as detention until a decision were taken. During Mr. Dadzie's visits some of the Governments stated that they would do their best to improve this situation in the future.

Apart from the main instruments of international scope, there are regional agreements of importance to the safeguard of the rights of refugees. One of the most significant is the 1969 Convention of the Organization of African Unity governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. During 1972, three more States ratified it, bringing the total who have done so to eight. Entry into force requires ratification by 13 member States of the OAU.

An important development in the field of legal protection during the year was the preparation of a draft Convention on Asylum by a group of 16 independent legal experts brought together at the initiative of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. At present there are two UN Declarations that are concerned with asylum, one the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Article 14 of which proclaims: " Everyone has

the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution " but does not stipulate that States should grant it, and the other, on Territorial Asylum (1967) which, *inter alia*, calls on Governments to refrain from measures such as rejection at the frontier, or expulsion or return of a person to a country where he may fear persecution. However, neither possesses legally binding force.

At the annual session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's programme in October, the majority of delegates who addressed themselves to this matter expressed the view that a Convention on Territorial Asylum would fill a gap in the legal framework of international protection. The question has been submitted to the General Assembly for further consideration.

Another aspect of the problem of international protection to which UNHCR gave particular attention in 1972 was statelessness. On the one hand, the Office continued to deplore acts which produce refugees or stateless persons. As the High Commissioner stated at the annual session of the Executive Committee, the "question of statelessness has been very closely linked with the problem of refugee status since the inception of UNHCR. In many ways, the position of refugees and stateless persons is similar. Many refugees indeed are stateless. (The difference, it would seem to me, is that whereas a refugee is often a *de facto* unprotected person, the stateless person is a *de jure* unprotected person.) And just as a refugee, though he may not have lost his nationality, will not be able to avail himself of the protection of his national authority when he crosses the border and finds himself in a foreign land, a stateless person in fact may not be in a position to enjoy any protection from any legal authority either in his country of habitual residence where he is or outside it ".

The possibility of action to prevent statelessness is limited, but there are two international instruments that offset the effects of statelessness once it occurs. During 1972 there were four new accessions—Argentina, Barbados, Fiji and Switzerland—to the 1954 Convention on Stateless Persons, which accords a standard of treatment that is in many ways similar to that contained in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees: there are now 26 parties to the 1954 Convention. To the second, the 1961

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Convention on Reduction of Statelessness, there was only one new ratification—by Austria—in 1972, bringing the number of parties to four, whereas six ratifications are required to bring it into force. This instrument is of considerable importance since it prevents statelessness from being passed on from one generation to the next, mainly by promoting the acquisition of a nationality by children who would otherwise be stateless. At the meeting of the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner renewed his appeal for accessions. “I sincerely believe,” he stated, “that it is of the utmost importance that Governments and indeed the whole of the international community should give the problem of statelessness its utmost attention as soon as possible.”

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

ELLEN HART: "HENRY DUNANT" ¹

In a collection devoted to outstanding persons whose merits have earned them a Nobel Prize, a book has recently come out, in English, about the man who shared with Passy, the pacifist, the first Nobel Peace Prize awarded by the Storting. It is by a writer who has already published a study on Henry Dunant.² To write this book, Ellen Hart referred to documents in the ICRC's possession and studied Dunant letters and manuscripts in the Geneva University Library. Pursuing her research outside Switzerland, she delved into the archives of private collections in England and the United States. She is therefore thoroughly familiar with the subject, and the picture she has drawn is one of unflinching interest.

She has summarized the essential facts of an eventful life, dwelling on its various stages and on the passion of a man who, following Solferino, had one sole aim: to find and set in motion practical means of providing relief for war victims and for all wounded soldiers like those he had seen suffer and die for lack of care in the Chiesa Maggiore at Castiglione. Yet his background had made an enduring mark on him, and his reactions, hopes and idealism would be hard to understand if one did not recall his childhood and his youth in a city he was soon to leave for ever, yet to which his mind unceasingly returned.

Ellen Hart rightly devoted a long chapter to "l'esprit de Genève". In it she summons up with great sensitivity the emotional and intellectual atmosphere, in the last century, of a small town lying in the heart of Europe which saw its international purpose defined and enhanced and which, moreover, made a deep and lasting impress on its citizens. This, as the writer says, undoubtedly applied to Dunant.

Ellen Hart's book ends with a chronology of historical events compared with events in Dunant's life; a summary of the work

¹ Editio-Service S.A., Geneva. Distribution by Heron Books.

² "Man Born to Live", London, 1953.

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

of the international Red Cross since 1910, the year that Dunant died at Heiden; the text of the first Geneva Convention, and, lastly, an account of non-Red Cross humanitarian activities. We might add that the book is enriched by a large number of carefully selected illustrations and that it ranks beside the fundamental book which Willy Heudtlass¹ devoted to a man whose destiny has not ceased to amaze and stir.

J.-G. L.

International Meeting of Experts on Communications Planned, *International Rehabilitation Review*, Vol. XXII, Nos. 3 and 4, Sydney, Australia.

As the first step in the implementation of the decision of the Rehabilitation International Council to convene an International Meeting of Experts in Communications Related to Rehabilitation, a meeting of specialists in different areas of communications was held in New York City from December 2 to 4, 1971, to plan the structure and program of the proposed Meeting of Experts . . .

... In his opening remarks welcoming the participants, Mr. Norman Acton, Secretary General of Rehabilitation International, said that if the gap between the increasing number of disabled people in every country and the provision of services for their rehabilitation was to be closed, it was imperative to enlist the technical resources, knowledge and experience of the world's foremost experts in all fields of communications. It was with this objective in mind that the Experts Meeting was being planned.

As an outcome of the two days of discussion it was agreed that the Meeting of Experts should take place in Europe at the end of 1972 and that the topics of the Meeting should include new approaches through modern technology, from the most sophisticated to the simplest, to expedite the training of auxiliary and technical personnel; an evaluation for the use of the mass media for community and client education; identification of means of facilitating the flow of information to workers on the field and guidelines for the use of the mass media to create greater awareness of the seriousness of the global problem of disability...

¹ *Henry Dunant*, Stuttgart, 1962.

Graduate Nurses in Poland, *WHO Chronicle*, Geneva, 1972.

The Department of Nursing at the Medical Academy, Lublin, Poland, which opened its doors to a pioneer group of students in October 1969, is the first university department of nursing in Eastern Europe. For an annual intake of 60 registered nurses, it offers a four-year course leading to a master's degree in nursing, after which the nurses will be able to go on to a doctorate in nursing.

The Department's aim is to meet the need for leaders in specialized branches of nursing, teachers in schools of nursing, administrators of hospital and community nursing services, and nursing research workers. After two years of fundamental training in the nursing, medical and social sciences, students will concentrate on either the educational or the administrative aspects of nursing. In addition to its growing full-time teaching staff of doctors, nurses, and educators, the Department draws lecturers from other academic institutions in Lublin and elsewhere in Poland.

From its inception the new Department has had the support of WHO, which has provided travel funds for the teaching staff and sent consultants to Poland. The Department plans eventually to establish an international school of advanced nursing education.

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ADOPTED 21 JUNE 1973

ART. 1. — *International Committee of the Red Cross*

1. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

2. It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.¹

ART. 2. — *Legal Status*

As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — *Headquarters and Emblem*

The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be *Inter arma caritas*.

ART. 4. — *Role*

1. The special role of the ICRC shall be:

- (a) to maintain the fundamental principles of the Red Cross as proclaimed by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;
- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;

¹ The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term "National Red Cross Societies" includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;
- (e) to ensure the operation of the Central Information Agencies provided for in the Geneva Conventions;
- (f) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;
- (g) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (h) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

2. The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its role as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — *Membership of the ICRC*

The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. It shall comprise fifteen to twenty-five members.

THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF AUGUST 12, 1949¹

Some Publications

	Sw. Fr
The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. 2nd Ed. 1950. 245 pp.	10.—
Commentary published under the general editorship of Mr. J. Pictet, member of ICRC:	
— Vol. 1: Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field — 466 pp.	
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*

International Red Cross Handbook. ² Conventions—Statutes and Regulations—Resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, 11th ed. 1971; 8vo, 607 pp.	40.—
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¹ These publications and the full list of ICRC publications may be obtained from the ICRC Documentation Department, 7 avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva.

² This joint publication can be obtained at the above address or from the League of Red Cross Societies, Case postale 2099, CH-1211 Geneva 19.

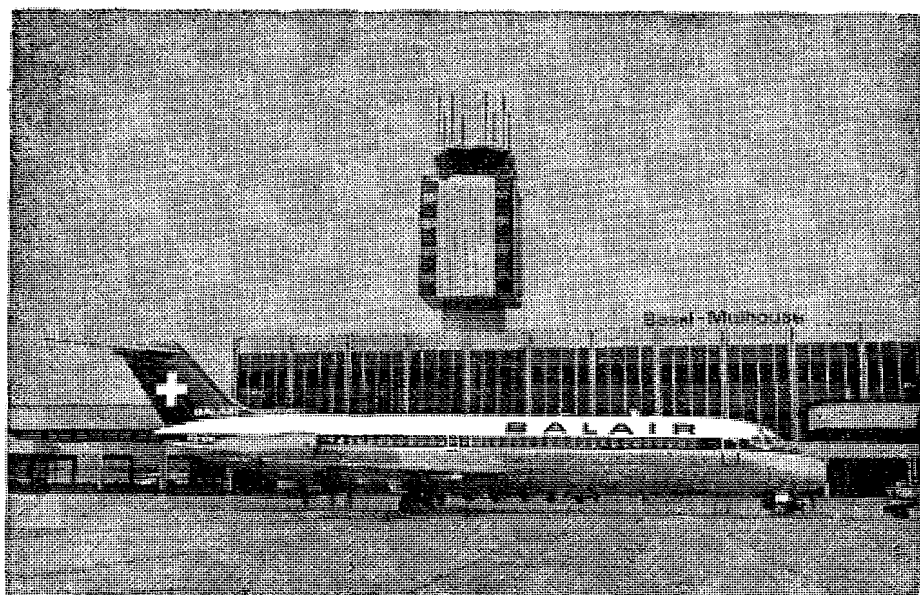


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- ALGERIA — Central Committee of the Algerian Red Crescent Society, 15 bis, Boulevard Mohamed V, *Algiers*.
- ARGENTINA — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne 3000*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, Postfach 39, *Vienna IV*.
- BAHRAIN — Bahrain Red Crescent Society, P.O. Box 882, *Manama*.
- BANGLADESH — Bangladesh Red Cross Society, Amin Court Building, Motijheel Commercial Area, *Dacca 2*.
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